Executive Proclamation
State of South Dakota
Office of the Governor

Whereas, Phyllis Ray O'Connor was born on January 14, 1912, in Yankton, South Dakota; and,

Whereas, Birthdays commemorate the first day of our lives, and we celebrate the birthdays of those we love as we recognize the joys and sorrows we have shared, the strength we have gained from the obstacles and hardships we have conquered and the small daily pleasures life offers; and,

Whereas, Phyllis graduated from Yankton College in 1933 and earned $70 per month as a desk clerk at the St. Charles Hotel in Pierre during the legislative session of 1934; and,

Whereas, Phyllis married Joseph O'Connor in 1939, and gave life and love to two children, Pat and Mike, who in turn blessed them with three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren; and,

Whereas, Phyllis was employed by the Ray Dental Group for 2 years and the South Dakota Department of Labor in Rapid City for 26½ years before retiring. Phyllis still found time for teaching swimming lessons at the YMCA for 43 years and was one of the originators of Ski for Light in 1979; and,

Whereas, Phyllis is an energetic lady who continues to be actively involved with the South Dakota Senior Games both organizing and participating in swimming, tennis and biking. She has logged more than 20,000 miles on her bike; and,

Whereas, Phyllis has received awards for service from the Black Hills Tennis Association, American Legion Baseball, Chiefs Baseball, Rapid City Sports Hall of Fame and the YMCA, as well as serving on the South Dakota Advisory Council on Aging for the past 12 years; and,

Whereas, Phyllis will observe her 95th Birthday with all the good wishes, fanfare, and celebration such a milestone warrants, as her friends and relatives gather to honor her and celebrate her life and the camaraderie of the day; and it is fitting and proper for the Governor to make note of this milestone in the life of a woman who has lived an exemplary life for all to emulate:

Now, Therefore, I, M. Michael Rounds, Governor of the State of South Dakota, do hereby proclaim January 14, 2007, as

PHYLLIS O'CONNOR DAY

in South Dakota, and I join all her many friends and relatives in wishing her a very happy birthday, good health and great happiness.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of South Dakota, in Pierre, the Capital City, this Fifth Day of January in the Year of Our Lord, Two Thousand and Seven.

M. Michael Rounds, Governor

Attest:

Chris Nelson, Secretary of State